

flood of new, digitally classified information has overwhelmed the obsolete, paper-based declassification system. This system is so out of whack that in order to get a document declassified, government officials actually have to walk the document around Washington from agency to agency. I actually said at our open hearing that I wonder if it is getting to the point that to get a document declassified, someone who works for the government has to pack a lunch, put the document in a big black briefcase, and then make their way all over the Nation's Capital.

So I have introduced with Senator MORAN bipartisan legislation to authorize the Director of National Intelligence to fix the problem. Ms. Haines has acknowledged the seriousness of the problem and the DNI's role in fixing it. It is my intent to make sure that this also is not allowed to just continue as business as usual.

Some of the starkest differences between the actions of the outgoing administration and the positions taken by Ms. Haines here a couple days ago relate to the crucial area of whistleblowers.

The outgoing administration broke the law when it withheld from Congress the complaint of the Ukraine whistleblower, the whistleblower who identified abuses that resulted in the first impeachment of Donald Trump. This lawlessness undermined both the whistleblower system and the independence of the Intelligence Community Inspector General, who had determined that the complaint ought to be submitted to Congress. Ms. Haines has been clear—the law requires that when the inspector general determines that a whistleblower complaint is urgent, the Director of National Intelligence cannot keep it from the Congress.

She made other commitments to whistleblowers. There are whistleblower protection laws—including some that have been approved by the Senate Intelligence Committee—that need to be enacted. There are procedures already required by law that the outgoing administration just didn't issue. They just stonewalled.

After all the damage done by the Trump administration with respect to trampling on the public's right to know and transparency where the information can be made public to the American people without compromising sources and methods, I will state that the Biden administration has a lot of work to do to repair and improve whistleblower protections. They are going to have a lot on their plate. The country has massive cyber vulnerabilities that we saw just a couple of weeks ago. There is more to do in terms of preventing foreign interference in our elections. We have to ensure that other surveillance programs provide security without sacrificing our constitutional rights.

I am going to close by way of saying I don't assume that I will always agree with the incoming administration.

That has been true for me with Democrats and Republicans on these issues. When we disagree, we will have a vigorous debate—as vigorous as when I disagreed with the Trump administration.

Ms. Haines as DNI and Ambassador Burns as CIA Director are beginning to shape up as a team that will be more open with the public, respect the law, and work with the Congress to repair the vast damage of the outgoing administration and respect what Ben Franklin talked about so many years ago. Liberty and security are not mutually exclusive. Smart policies get you both. Not-so-smart policies get you less of both. And that is our challenge.

So tonight, because of her answers to me at the open Intelligence hearing a couple of days ago, I want to say I am going to be supporting Ms. Haines' nomination to be Director of National Intelligence.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session and the Intelligence Committee be discharged from further consideration of PN 78-10, the nomination of Avril Haines to be Director of National Intelligence; that the Senate proceed to its consideration; that there be 10 minutes of debate on the nomination equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote without intervening action or debate; and that, if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will read the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Avril Danica Haines, of New York, to be Director of National Intelligence.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise to support the nomination of Avril Haines to be the Director of National Intelligence. Ms. Haines is a historic nominee and would be the first woman to lead our intelligence community in this critical role. With a background at the Central Intelligence Agency and National Security Council, she understands the work of our intelligence professionals and the need to ensure a frank and nonpartisan process to deliver the information that underpins national security and foreign policy decisions.

Ms. Haines has applied her keen intellect to a number of pursuits, even including running a bookstore in Balti-

more and serving as a senior fellow at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. She has a firm commitment to her country and to encouraging others to serve, including as a member of the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service.

After a tumultuous 4 years and a President who routinely scorned the work of our intelligence community, it is critical to restore professional leadership who will work with the administration and Congress, deliver honest assessments, and speak truth to power. Ms. Haines is the right woman for the job.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise in strong support of the nomination of Avril Haines to be Director of National Intelligence.

Let me speak for a few moments, but I want to first of all thank members of particularly the Intelligence Committee on both sides of the aisle. My good friend, the Senator from Oregon, the Finance Committee chair, is someone who has deep and passionate concerns about the civil libertarian issues in our country. He is part of the yin; there is some yang on that committee. He raised I think important questions with the nominee, and I appreciate his courtesy in allowing this to move forward.

But I also want to thank, at least until tomorrow, the chairman of the committee, Senator RUBIO, and my Republican colleagues as well. When we discussed moving on this nomination in a very timely manner, the good Chairman RUBIO and Senator BURR worked with all the members of the committee. I thank my friend, the Senator from Idaho, for his courtesy as well.

I am very proud of the fact that the first nomination to be considered under the Biden administration is going to be Ms. Haines. I think that reflects the approach of the Intelligence Committee, and again, I see the chair of the committee on the floor now, and I want to thank him personally—Senator RUBIO—while he is on the floor for that courtesy.

I think part of the reason we were able to move so quickly is because this position is of such critical importance to the country that it is only appropriate that it be the first nomination to be confirmed by the Senate.

Avril is extraordinarily qualified for the role, having worked in national security for most of the last two decades. After working for several years at the State Department, Ms. Haines came here to the Senate, where she worked on the Foreign Relations Committee as a deputy chief counsel. Following another stint at State, Ms. Haines moved to the White House, where she served 3 years as a Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Counsel for National Security.

In June of 2013, President Obama chose Ms. Haines to serve as the Deputy Director of the CIA, making her

the first woman to hold that office. Ms. Haines served with the Agency until 2015, at which point she moved to academia and the private sector. She was a senior researcher at Columbia University, a senior fellow at Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab, and a member of the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service.

Avril Haines has all the qualifications we would want for a DNI. But more than that, I believe she is firmly committed to rebuilding the office of the Director of National Intelligence and reestablishing the role of that office as not only the coordinator of our Nation's intelligence community but as an adviser to the President and Congress that will not shy away from telling the hard truths.

Since Ms. Haines was nominated for this role by President Biden, I spent a fair amount of time talking to her about her future as the Director of National Intelligence and the enormous job that she will be taking on.

In our conversations and in her confirmation hearings, Ms. Haines was strong and thoughtful about the future challenges our country will face. My first question to her was about China. Her answer was equally clear-eyed, pointing out the many ways in which China is an adversary to our Nation by stealing IP or hacking our systems and undermining our security, while also pointing out that there are many places where we will have to engage with China as a partner, like on tackling climate change.

She had equally focused answers about the role of Iran as a state sponsor of terror and the need to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon.

For every question she was asked by my colleagues on the committee, she demonstrated that she understood not only the challenges of the coming future but the IC's role in understanding those issues and meeting them head on.

I have also been impressed from the beginning—and continue to be impressed—by her understanding of the important role of the DNI and the IC and her commitment to making sure that the IC tells policymakers what they need to hear, not only what they want to hear.

The last 4 years have been hard on the intelligence community. You only have to read a newspaper or turn on a TV at some point to know that. Since the 2016 election, the IC has faced false accusations of trying to undermine the then-President and seen many of their leaders fired for simply doing the right thing, speaking truth to power. It should surprise no one that all of this has led to some damage within the IC, particularly to morale.

I believe that Avril Haines is the right nominee to repair this damage. She will support the men and women of the IC and protect them from political pressure. She will insist that they tell us their best analysis and not shy away from telling decision makers that their cherished beliefs are wrong. She will insist on telling truth to power.

Ultimately, this is why I urge my colleagues to send a strong message of support for the men and women of the IC and to support Avril Haines for DNI. She is capable, qualified, and will undertake the serious responsibilities with a clear-eyed sense of promise.

I yield the floor.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### VOTE ON HAINES NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Haines nomination?

Mr. WARNER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 84, nays 10, as follows:

#### [Rollcall Vote No. 3 Ex.]

##### YEAS—84

Baldwin	Hassan	Peters
Barrasso	Heinrich	Portman
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Romney
Blunt	Hoeven	Rosen
Booker	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Boozman	Inhofe	Rubio
Burr	Johnson	Sanders
Cantwell	Kaine	Sasse
Capito	Kelly	Schatz
Cardin	Kennedy	Schumer
Carper	King	Scott (FL)
Casey	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cassidy	Lankford	Shelby
Collins	Leahy	Sinema
Coons	Lujan	Smith
Cornyn	Lummis	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Sullivan
Cotton	Markey	Tester
Cramer	McConnell	Thune
Daines	Menendez	Tuberville
Duckworth	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Moran	Warner
Feinstein	Murkowski	Warnock
Fischer	Murphy	Warren
Gillibrand	Murray	Wicker
Graham	Ossoff	Wyden
Grassley	Padilla	Young

##### NAYS—10

Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Braun	Hawley	Risch
Cruz	Lee	
Ernst	Marshall	

##### NOT VOTING—6

Brown	Scott (SC)	Toomey
Crapo	Tillis	Whitehouse

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid

upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Maryland.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

##### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### OPENING DAY OF IOWA LEGISLATURE'S 89TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, on January 11, I had the honor of administering the oath of office to Iowa's speaker of the house, Patrick Grassley, who also happens to be my grandson. It was a privilege for me and my family to participate in the opening day of the Iowa Legislature's 89th General Assembly. Pat has represented the people of house district 50 since 2007. He is in his second year serving his caucus as speaker.

In addition to celebrating Pat's professional accomplishments, we were also moved by the prayer that was written and shared by our great granddaughter Reagan, alongside her siblings Indee and Chance, as the legislature convened.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of Reagan's prayer be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

She is 11 years old. Barbara and I are truly blessed to spend memorable days like this one together as a family.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### STATE OF IOWA HOUSE JOURNAL

MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021

#### First Calendar Day—First Session Day

#### Hall of the House of Representatives

Des Moines, Iowa, Monday, January 11, 2021

Pursuant to chapter two (2), sections two point one (2.1) and two point three (2.3), Code of Iowa, the House of Representatives of the Eighty-ninth General Assembly of Iowa, 2021 Regular Session, convened at 10:03 a.m., Monday, January 11, 2021.

The House was called to order by the Honorable John Wills, state representative from Dickinson County.

Prayer was offered by Reagan Grassley. She is the daughter of Speaker Grassley.

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for bringing us here today.

Thank you for giving these leaders the opportunity to not only serve the state of Iowa, but to serve you.

You are a good father who promises beauty for ashes and joy for our sadness, but we are hurting Father. This world is hurting. We pray that we can learn to love ourselves, and others in this room, more like you.

In a broken world these truths remain: you are pain taker, a way maker, and a chain breaker.